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General Assembly

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Fifty-eighth session
Agenda item 40 (*b*)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/58/L.46 and Add.1)*]

58/121. Assistance for humanitarian relief, rehabilitation and development for Timor-Leste

The General Assembly,

Recalling all of its relevant resolutions on the situation in Timor-Leste,

Recalling also all of the relevant Security Council resolutions and decisions on the situation in Timor-Leste, in particular resolutions 1473 (2003) of 4 April 2003 and 1480 (2003) of 19 May 2003, acknowledging the ongoing crucial role of the United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor and the leadership of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General in assisting the people of Timor-Leste,

Recognizing the essential role played by the international community, including the United Nations, other intergovernmental organizations, Member States and non-governmental organizations, in supporting the nation-building process of Timor-Leste,

Acknowledging the progress made in the transition from relief and rehabilitation to development in Timor-Leste, while noting continuing vulnerabilities, including the need to strengthen the preparedness and response capacity of the Government of Timor-Leste for addressing humanitarian emergencies, and the significant challenges of rehabilitation, reconstruction and development, in particular in the initial years of independence,

Emphasizing the need for continued international assistance to support the development of Timor-Leste in, inter alia, the education, health, agriculture, infrastructure, judicial, public administration and law enforcement sectors,

Welcoming the efforts of the Government of Indonesia and relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations in providing humanitarian assistance to the refugees of Timor-Leste in the Indonesian province of East Nusa Tenggara, in facilitating their return to and reintegration in Timor-Leste or in assisting with their local integration and resettlement, as appropriate, in Indonesia,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General;[1]

2. *Also welcomes* the commitment of the international community to meet the external requirements for rehabilitation, reconstruction and development activities for Timor-Leste;

3. *Urges* the United Nations, other intergovernmental organizations, Member States and non-governmental organizations to continue to support the Government and the people of Timor-Leste in their endeavours towards self-sustainable nation-building and in facing the remaining vulnerabilities and challenges, such as nationwide capacity-building in all sectors, national reconciliation and the voluntary return of the remaining refugees to Timor-Leste, and sustainable development;

4. *Acknowledges* that a transparent, effective and functioning democratic governmental administration is crucial to fostering a stable and secure social, economic and political environment in Timor-Leste, and in this regard urges the international community to continue to support efforts aimed at institution-building and the training of civil servants, in particular in the areas of public finances and senior management and in the development and maintenance of central and local administrative systems of government;

5. *Also acknowledges* the need to expedite the development of the justice sector of Timor-Leste, and in this regard urges further international support in the areas of law enforcement, the judiciary and the prison system;

6. *Welcomes* the continuing response of the international community to the need for food aid, and calls upon the United Nations, other intergovernmental organizations, Member States and non-governmental organizations to assist Timor-Leste in ensuring sustainable development in the areas of agriculture, livestock and fisheries;

7. *Welcomes with appreciation* the assistance provided by Member States, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat, the World Food Programme and all other international and non-governmental organizations in response to the appeals by the Government of Timor-Leste during the floods and drought;

8. *Takes note with appreciation* of the progress made in rehabilitating infrastructure, and recommends that outstanding infrastructure needs remain a focus of international assistance in such areas as the reconstruction and rehabilitation of public buildings, educational facilities, roads and public services;

9. *Commends* the continuous international response in providing health services to the general population, including the early deployment of immunization and disease prevention programmes and reproductive health-care and child nutrition programmes, while recognizing the need for further assistance to rebuild hospitals, train health-care professionals and enhance capacity-building to meet the challenges to public health posed by such diseases as tuberculosis, malaria and HIV/AIDS;

10. *Welcomes* the progress made in the rehabilitation of schools, the supply and distribution of educational materials and teacher training, while emphasizing the need for capacity-building, particularly in the area of secondary and higher

[1] A/58/280.

education, and for continued attention to the rehabilitation needs, including psychosocial support, of children affected by violence;

11. *Also welcomes* the growing participation of the women of Timor-Leste in all aspects of society, and encourages further efforts to address gender issues, including the needs for research, services and appropriate legislation in order to combat domestic violence and other gender-related crimes;

12. *Further welcomes* the continuing efforts made by the Commission for Reception, Truth and Reconciliation to facilitate national reconciliation and the return of refugees to Timor-Leste;

13. *Welcomes* the commitment and contribution made by the Government of Indonesia and by the international community to the Special Fund established for former employees and pensioners of the Government of Indonesia in Timor-Leste and the progress made by the United Nations Development Programme in disbursing funds from the Special Fund, and encourages the international community to consider increasing its contributions;

14. *Also welcomes* the holding, in Dili in September 2003, of the second meeting of the Joint Ministerial Commission for Bilateral Cooperation between Indonesia and Timor-Leste, which emphasized the importance of good relations and of further enhancing and facilitating cooperation in all areas of common interest;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report on the implementation of the present resolution to the General Assembly for consideration at its sixtieth session.

75th plenary meeting
17 December 2003

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Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

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58/122. Safety and security of humanitarian personnel and protection of United Nations personnel

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolution 46/182 of 19 December 1991 on strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian emergency assistance of the United Nations,

Recalling its resolutions 53/87 of 7 December 1998, 54/192 of 17 December 1999, 55/175 of 19 December 2000, 56/217 of 21 December 2001 and 57/155 of 16 December 2002 on safety and security of humanitarian personnel and protection of United Nations personnel, as well as resolutions 52/167 of 16 December 1997 on safety and security of humanitarian personnel and 52/126 of 12 December 1997 on protection of United Nations personnel, and Economic and Social Council resolution 2003/5 of 15 July 2003,

Welcoming the adoption by the Security Council of resolution 1502 (2003) of 26 August 2003 on the safety and security of humanitarian personnel and United Nations and its associated personnel,

Taking note of the reports of the Secretary-General on the protection of civilians in armed conflict[1] and of Security Council resolutions 1265 (1999) of 17 September 1999 and 1296 (2000) of 19 April 2000 and the recommendations made therein, as well as the statements by the President of the Council of 30 November 1999, on the role of the Council in the prevention of armed conflicts,[2] 13 January 2000, on humanitarian assistance to refugees in Africa,[3] 9 February 2000, on protection of United Nations personnel, its associated personnel and humanitarian personnel in conflict zones,[4] 9 March 2000, on humanitarian aspects of issues before the Council,[5] and 15 March 2002, on the aide-memoire for the consideration of issues pertaining to the protection of civilians in armed conflict,[6]

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[1] S/2001/331 and S/2002/1300.

[2] S/PRST/1999/34; see *Resolutions and Decisions of the Security Council, 1999*.

[3] S/PRST/2000/1; see *Resolutions and Decisions of the Security Council, 2000*.

[4] S/PRST/2000/4; see *Resolutions and Decisions of the Security Council, 2000*.

[5] S/PRST/2000/7; see *Resolutions and Decisions of the Security Council, 2000*.

[6] S/PRST/2002/6; see *Resolutions and Decisions of the Security Council, 1 January 2001–31 July 2002*.

and noting in that context the range of views expressed during all open debates of the Council on these issues,

Reaffirming the need to promote and ensure respect for the principles and rules of international humanitarian law,

Concerned by the increasingly difficult context in which humanitarian assistance takes place in some areas, in particular the continuous erosion, in many cases, of respect for the principles and rules of international humanitarian law,

Deeply concerned by the dangers and security risks faced by humanitarian personnel and United Nations and its associated personnel at the field level, and mindful of the need to improve the current security management system in order to improve their safety and security,

Gravely concerned at the acts of violence in many parts of the world against humanitarian personnel and United Nations and its associated personnel, in particular deliberate attacks, which are in violation of international humanitarian law as well as other international law that may be applicable,

Expressing profound regret at the deaths of all international and national humanitarian personnel and United Nations and its associated personnel who were involved in the provision of humanitarian assistance, and strongly deploring the rising toll of casualties among such personnel in complex humanitarian emergencies, in particular in armed conflicts and in post-conflict situations,

Commending the courage and commitment of those who take part, often at great personal risk, in humanitarian operations, especially of locally recruited staff,

Strongly condemning acts of murder and other forms of violence, rape and sexual assault, intimidation, armed robbery, abduction, hostage-taking, kidnapping, harassment and illegal arrest and detention to which those participating in humanitarian operations are increasingly exposed, as well as attacks on humanitarian convoys and acts of destruction and looting of their property,

Emphasizing that there are existing prohibitions under international law against attacks knowingly and intentionally directed against personnel involved in a humanitarian assistance or peacekeeping mission undertaken in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, which in situations of armed conflicts constitute war crimes,

Recalling the inclusion of attacks intentionally directed against personnel involved in a humanitarian assistance or peacekeeping mission in accordance with the Charter as a war crime in the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court,[7] which entered into force on 1 July 2002, and noting the role that the Court could play in appropriate cases in bringing to justice those responsible for serious violations of international humanitarian law,

Expressing concern that the occurrence of attacks and threats against humanitarian personnel and United Nations and its associated personnel is a factor that increasingly restricts the ability of the Organization to provide assistance and protection to civilians in fulfilment of its mandate under the Charter,

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[7] See *Official Records of the United Nations Diplomatic Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Establishment of an International Criminal Court, Rome, 15 June–17 July 1998*, vol. I: *Final documents* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.I.5), sect. A.

Recalling that primary responsibility under international law for the security and protection of humanitarian personnel and United Nations and its associated personnel lies with the Government hosting a United Nations operation conducted under the Charter or its agreements with relevant organizations,

Urging all other parties involved in armed conflicts, in compliance with international humanitarian law, in particular their obligations under the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949[8] and the obligations applicable to them under the Additional Protocols thereto, of 8 June 1977,[9] to ensure the security and protection of all humanitarian personnel and United Nations and its associated personnel,

Bearing in mind that reaching the vulnerable is essential for providing adequate protection and assistance in the context of natural disasters and complex emergencies as well as for strengthening local capacity to cope with humanitarian needs in such contexts,

Welcoming the fact that the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel,[10] which entered into force on 15 January 1999, has been ratified or acceded to by sixty-nine States as at the present date, and mindful of the need to promote universality of the Convention,

Reaffirming the need to ensure adequate levels of safety and security for United Nations personnel and humanitarian personnel and a culture of accountability at all levels,

Reaffirming also that ensuring the safety and security of United Nations personnel constitutes an underlying duty of the Organization, which must be based on a necessary cost-sharing arrangement with the relevant agencies, funds and programmes within the United Nations system,

Guided by the relevant provisions on protection contained in the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations of 13 February 1946,[11] the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies of 21 November 1947,[12] the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel, the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of 12 August 1949[13] and the Additional Protocols to the Geneva Conventions, and Amended Protocol II of 3 May 1996[14] to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects of 10 October 1980,[15]

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General,[16] while noting that it does not cover developments after 30 June 2003;

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[8] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, Nos. 970–973.

[9] Ibid., vol. 1125, Nos. 17512 and 17513.

[10] Resolution 49/59, annex.

[11] Resolution 22 A (I).

[12] Resolution 179 (II).

[13] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, No. 973.

[14] CCW/CONF.I/16 (Part I), annex B.

[15] See *The United Nations Disarmament Yearbook*, vol. 5: 1980 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.81.IX.4), appendix VII.

[16] A/58/344.

2. *Urges* all States to take the necessary measures to ensure the full and effective implementation of the relevant principles and rules of international law, including international humanitarian law, as well as the relevant provisions of human rights and refugee law related to the safety and security of humanitarian personnel and United Nations personnel;

3. *Also urges* all States to take the necessary measures to ensure the safety and security of humanitarian personnel and United Nations and its associated personnel and to respect and ensure respect for the inviolability of United Nations premises, which are essential to the continuation and successful implementation of United Nations operations;

4. *Calls upon* all other parties involved in armed conflicts, in compliance with international humanitarian law, in particular their obligations under the 1949 Geneva Conventions[8] and the obligations applicable to them under the Additional Protocols thereto,[9] to ensure the safety and protection of humanitarian personnel and United Nations and its associated personnel, to refrain from abducting or detaining them in violation of their immunity under relevant conventions referred to in the present resolution and applicable international humanitarian law, and speedily to release, without harm, any abductee or detainee;

5. *Calls upon* all Governments and parties in complex humanitarian emergencies, in particular in armed conflicts and in post-conflict situations, in countries in which humanitarian personnel are operating, in conformity with the relevant provisions of international law and national laws, to cooperate fully with the United Nations and other humanitarian agencies and organizations and to ensure the safe and unhindered access of humanitarian personnel in order to allow them to perform efficiently their task of assisting the affected civilian population, including refugees and internally displaced persons;

6. *Strongly condemns* any act or failure to act, contrary to international law, which obstructs or prevents humanitarian personnel and United Nations personnel from discharging their humanitarian functions, or which entails being subjected to threats, the use of force or physical attack, frequently resulting in injury or death, and affirms the need to hold accountable those who commit such acts and, for that purpose, the need to enact national legislation, as appropriate;

7. *Expresses deep concern* that, over the past decade, threats against the safety and security of humanitarian personnel and United Nations and its associated personnel have escalated at an unprecedented rate and that perpetrators of acts of violence seemingly operate with impunity;

8. *Strongly urges* all States to take stronger actions to ensure that any threat or act of violence committed against humanitarian personnel and United Nations and its associated personnel on their territory is investigated fully and to ensure that the perpetrators of such acts are brought to justice in accordance with international law and national law, and notes the need for States to end impunity for such acts;

9. *Calls upon* all States to consider becoming parties to and to respect fully their obligations under the relevant international instruments, in particular the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel;[10]

10. *Also calls upon* all States to consider becoming parties to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court;[7]

11. *Further calls upon* all States to consider becoming parties to and to respect fully their obligations under the Convention on the Privileges and

Immunities of the United Nations[11] and the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies,[12] which have been ratified so far by one hundred and forty-eight States and one hundred and eight States, respectively;

12. *Calls upon* all States to provide adequate and prompt information in the event of the arrest or detention of humanitarian personnel or United Nations and its associated personnel, to afford them the necessary medical assistance and to allow independent medical teams to visit and examine the health of those detained, and urges them to take the necessary measures to ensure the speedy release of United Nations and other personnel carrying out activities in fulfilment of the mandate of a United Nations operation who have been arrested or detained in violation of their immunity, in accordance with the relevant conventions referred to in the present resolution and applicable international humanitarian law;

13. *Reaffirms* the obligation of all humanitarian personnel and United Nations and its associated personnel to observe and respect the national laws of the country in which they are operating, in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take the necessary measures to ensure full respect for the human rights, privileges and immunities of United Nations and other personnel carrying out activities in fulfilment of the mandate of a United Nations operation, and to continue to consider ways and means to strengthen the protection of United Nations and other personnel carrying out activities in fulfilment of the mandate of a United Nations operation, notably by seeking the inclusion, in negotiations of headquarters and other mission agreements concerning United Nations and its associated personnel, of the applicable conditions contained in the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations, the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies and the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel;

15. *Recommends* that the Secretary-General continue to seek the inclusion of, and that host countries include, key provisions of the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel, among others, those regarding the prevention of attacks against members of the operation, the establishment of such attacks as crimes punishable by law and the prosecution or extradition of offenders, in future as well as, if necessary, in existing status-of-forces, status-of-mission and host country agreements negotiated between the United Nations and those countries, mindful of the importance of the timely conclusion of such agreements;

16. *Takes note with appreciation* of the work being done by the Ad Hoc Committee established in accordance with resolution 56/89 of 12 December 2001, which will be reconvened in accordance with resolution 58/82 of 9 December 2003, with a mandate to expand the scope of legal protection under the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel, including by means of a legal instrument;

17. *Welcomes* the ongoing initiatives undertaken by the Secretary-General following the publication of the report of the Independent Panel on the Safety and Security of United Nations Personnel in Iraq headed by Martti Ahtisaari, and requests the Secretary-General to continue his efforts in this regard as a matter of the highest priority, and to inform the General Assembly accordingly;

18. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take the necessary measures to ensure that United Nations and other personnel carrying out activities in fulfilment of the mandate of a United Nations operation are properly informed about the conditions

under which they are called upon to operate, including relevant customs and traditions in the host country, and the standards that they are required to meet, including those contained in relevant domestic and international law, and that adequate training in security, human rights and international humanitarian law is provided so as to enhance their security and effectiveness in accomplishing their functions, and reaffirms the necessity for all other humanitarian organizations to provide their personnel with similar support;

19. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to take the necessary measures to ensure that United Nations and other personnel carrying out activities in fulfilment of the mandate of a United Nations humanitarian assistance operation are properly informed about and operate in conformity with the minimum operating security standards and relevant codes of conduct;

20. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to take the necessary measures, falling within his responsibilities, to promote and enhance the security consciousness within the organizational culture of the Secretariat and the United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, including by disseminating and enhancing the security procedures and regulations, to create awareness and consciousness by the United Nations personnel of those procedures and regulations and the need to follow them, and to ensure that security matters are an integral part of the planning for existing and newly mandated United Nations operations and that such precautions extend to all United Nations and its associated personnel;

21. *Welcomes* the ongoing efforts of the Secretary-General to further enhance the security management system of the United Nations, and in this regard invites the United Nations and other humanitarian organizations to strengthen the analysis of threats to their safety and security in order to minimize security risks and to facilitate informed decisions on the maintenance of an effective presence in the field, inter alia, to fulfil their humanitarian mandate;

22. *Emphasizes* the need to give further consideration to the safety and security of locally recruited humanitarian personnel, who account for the majority of casualties;

23. *Also emphasizes* the importance of paying special attention to the safety and security of United Nations and its associated personnel engaged in United Nations peacekeeping and peace-building operations;

24. *Stresses* the need to ensure that all United Nations staff members receive adequate security training, including physical and psychological training, prior to their deployment to the field, the need to attach a high priority to the improvement of stress and trauma counselling services available to United Nations staff members, including through the implementation of a comprehensive security and stress and trauma management training, support and assistance programme for United Nations staff throughout the system, before, during and after missions, and the need to make available to the Secretary-General the means for that purpose;

25. *Recognizes* the need for a strengthened and unified security management system for the United Nations, both at the headquarters and the field levels, and requests the United Nations system, as well as Member States, to take all appropriate measures to that end;

26. *Requests* the Office of the United Nations Security Coordinator to continue to play a central role in promoting increased cooperation and collaboration among agencies, funds and programmes in the planning and implementation of measures aimed at improving staff security training and awareness and in

strengthening the Inter-Agency Security Management Network, and calls upon all relevant United Nations agencies, funds and programmes to support these efforts;

27. *Recognizes* the need for enhanced coordination and cooperation, both at the headquarters and the field levels, between the United Nations security management system and non-governmental organizations on matters relating to the safety and security of humanitarian personnel and United Nations and its associated personnel, with a view to addressing mutual security concerns in the field;

28. *Underlines* the need to allocate adequate and predictable resources to the safety and security of United Nations personnel, including through the Consolidated Appeals Process, and encourages all States to contribute to the Trust Fund for Security of Staff Members of the United Nations System;

29. *Recalls* the essential role of telecommunication resources in facilitating the safety of humanitarian personnel and United Nations and its associated personnel, calls upon States to consider acceding to or ratifying the Tampere Convention on the Provision of Telecommunication Resources for Disaster Mitigation and Relief Operations of 18 June 1998, and encourages them to facilitate and expedite, consistent with their national laws and regulations, the use of communications equipment in such operations, and emphasizes the importance of States facilitating communications, inter alia, through limiting and, whenever possible, lifting the restrictions placed on the use of communications equipment by United Nations and its associated personnel;

30. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session a comprehensive and updated report on the safety and security situation of humanitarian personnel and protection of United Nations personnel and on the implementation of the present resolution, including the progress made by the Secretary-General in pursuing accountability and assessing responsibility for all individual security incidents that involve United Nations and its associated personnel at all levels throughout the United Nations system, as well as an account of the measures taken by Governments and the United Nations to prevent and respond to such incidents.

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58/123. Special assistance for the economic recovery and reconstruction of the Democratic Republic of the Congo

The General Assembly,

Recalling its previous resolutions on special assistance for the economic recovery and reconstruction of the Democratic Republic of the Congo,

Recalling also all resolutions of the Security Council and the statements by its President regarding the Democratic Republic of the Congo,

Reaffirming the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and all States in the region,

Gravely concerned at the dire humanitarian, economic and social situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and at the effects on the inhabitants of the continued fighting in the eastern part, resulting in the continuing plight of the civilian population, and calling for its protection, taking into account the particular needs of women and girls,

Deeply concerned at the HIV/AIDS pandemic, and at its disproportionate effect on women and girls,

Expressing its deep concern at the dire consequences of the conflict for the humanitarian and human rights situations in the country, and at the continuing lack of sufficient access to vulnerable people,

Gravely concerned by the continued illegal exploitation of the natural resources of the Democratic Republic of the Congo as a source of further conflict, and reaffirming in this regard its commitment to respect the sovereignty of the Democratic Republic of the Congo over its natural resources,

Gravely concerned also at the negative impact of war on the promotion of sustainable development in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Great Lakes region,

Deeply concerned about the continued extensive destruction of life and property, as well as the severe damage to infrastructure and the environment suffered by the Democratic Republic of the Congo,

Bearing in mind the fact that the Democratic Republic of the Congo hosts thousands of refugees from neighbouring countries, which places a great burden on

its limited resources, and expressing the hope that conditions will be created that facilitate a safe and voluntary return of refugees,

Recalling that the Democratic Republic of the Congo is a least developed country with severe economic and social problems arising from its weak economic infrastructure and aggravated by the ongoing conflict,

Bearing in mind the close interrelationship between ensuring peace and security and the ability of the country to meet the humanitarian needs of its people and to take effective steps towards the rapid revitalization of the economy, and reaffirming the urgent need to assist the Democratic Republic of the Congo in the rehabilitation and reconstruction of its damaged economy and in its efforts to restore basic services and the infrastructure of the country,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[1]

2. *Welcomes* the conclusion of the Global and All-Inclusive Agreement on the Transition in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, signed in Pretoria on 17 December 2002 and the subsequent establishment of the Government of National Unity and Transition, and encourages the effective establishment of all transitional institutions;

3. *Also welcomes* the declaration of Principles on Good-Neighbourly Relations and Cooperation between the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Burundi, Rwanda and Uganda,[2] which marked the successful conclusion of the high-level meeting held on 25 September 2003 under the auspices of the Secretary-General;

4. *Further welcomes* the efforts of the Republic of South Africa, the Republic of Angola, and all the Central African countries, as well as the important role of the Secretary-General, in facilitating the adoption of these agreements;

5. *Urges* all parties concerned in the region to cease military activities and to cease any support for armed groups, and rather to use their influence to support the transition and bring all within the dynamic of the transition;

6. *Strongly condemns* the acts of violence, including the latest massacres in Ituri, systematically perpetrated against civilians, including the massacres, as well as other atrocities and violations of international humanitarian law and human rights, in particular sexual violence against women and girls, stresses the need to bring to justice those responsible, including those at the command level, and urges all parties, including the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, to take all necessary steps to prevent further violations of human rights and international humanitarian law, in particular those committed against civilians;

7. *Welcomes* the work of the Interim Emergency Multinational Force in Bunia led by the European Union, and the subsequent efforts of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo to help secure the Ituri region;

8. *Recognizes* the importance of an effective withdrawal of all foreign troops from the territory of the Democratic Republic of the Congo;

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[1] A/58/273.

[2] A/58/428-S/2003/983, annex.

9. *Urges* all parties concerned in the region to cease any recruitment, training and use of child soldiers, which are contrary to international law, welcomes the initial steps taken by the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to demobilize and reintegrate child soldiers, in particular through education, and urges the Government and all parties to continue their efforts in this context, and to take into account the particular needs of girl ex-combatants;

10. *Invites* donors to strengthen their support for the efforts of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo to demobilize and repatriate armed groups currently in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and to encourage the transitional Government and all parties to the conflict to cooperate with the Organization Mission in achieving a climate of security and trust, the support of neighbouring countries in this process being essential;

11. *Emphasizes* that the consolidation of peace and the resumption of economic activity in the Democratic Republic of the Congo are inextricably linked, and calls for further international economic assistance in this regard;

12. *Encourages* the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to pursue the implementation of economic reforms aimed at stabilizing the macroeconomic framework so that conditions for sustainable growth can be created;

13. *Urges* all parties to fully respect international humanitarian law and to ensure the safe and unhindered access of humanitarian personnel to all affected populations throughout the territory of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the safety of United Nations and humanitarian personnel;

14. *Calls upon* the international community to increase its support for humanitarian relief activities within the Democratic Republic of the Congo;

15. *Urges* all parties to permit free and unhindered movement of the population, which is essential, inter alia, to the resumption of economic activities;

16. *Expresses its deep concern* especially at the very serious, dire humanitarian situation in Ituri, and calls on all Congolese parties on the ground to cooperate fully, in general, with the institutions of the transition, and, in particular, with the Ituri Pacification Commission;

17. *Also expresses its deep concern* over the dire humanitarian situation throughout the country and the very high number of internally displaced persons in the eastern part and, in particular, in the Ituri region, and urges all parties to avoid further population displacement and to facilitate the safe and voluntary return of refugees and internally displaced persons to their places of origin;

18. *Stresses* the importance of the restoration of river traffic, welcomes in this regard the reopening of the Congo and Oubangui Rivers, and expresses its support for the establishment of a Congo River Basin Commission;

19. *Calls* for the reopening of the Kisangani-Kindu rail and river link to facilitate the delivery of humanitarian assistance, as well as the resupply access for humanitarian personnel;

20. *Encourages* the continued cooperation of the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo with the United Nations, the specialized agencies, international financial institutions and other organizations, including non-governmental organizations, in addressing the need for rehabilitation and reconstruction, and welcomes in this regard their renewed dialogue and cooperation;

21. *Renews its urgent appeal* to the executive boards of the United Nations funds and programmes to continue to keep under consideration the special needs of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and stresses the need to mainstream an appropriate gender perspective within overall reconstruction efforts;

22. *Welcomes* the inclusion of the Democratic Republic of the Congo in the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative;

23. *Urges* the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to implement national comprehensive strategies to monitor and manage external liabilities, embedded in the domestic preconditions for debt sustainability, including sound macroeconomic and public resource management;

24. *Welcomes* initiatives that have been undertaken to reduce outstanding indebtedness, and invites further national and international measures in that direction, including, as appropriate, debt cancellation and other arrangements;

25. *Invites* the development partners to cover the funding shortfall of the Emergency Multisectoral Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Programme and support civil service reform and efforts to reunify the country;

26. *Invites* Governments to continue providing support to the Democratic Republic of the Congo;

27. *Requests* the Secretary-General:

(*a*) To ensure through his Special Representative for the Democratic Republic of the Congo, who convenes the International Committee in Support of the Transition, the coordination of all the activities of the United Nations system in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the facilitation of the coordination with other national and international actors of activities in support of the transition, and welcomes to that effect the adoption of new coordination mechanisms aimed at ensuring a coherent and effective response to the multifaceted humanitarian crisis in the Democratic Republic of the Congo;

(*b*) To continue to consult with regional leaders, in coordination with the President of the African Union, about ways to bring about a peaceful and durable solution to the conflict;

(*c*) To continue to consult with regional leaders, in coordination with the President of the African Union, in order to prepare an international conference on peace, security and development in Central Africa and in the Great Lakes region, under the auspices of the United Nations and the African Union, to address the problems of the region in a comprehensive manner;

(*d*) To keep under review the humanitarian and economic situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo with a view to promoting participation in and support for a programme of financial and material assistance to the country to enable it to meet urgent needs in terms of economic recovery and reconstruction;

(*e*) To submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session a report on the actions taken pursuant to the present resolution.

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58/124. United Nations Year for Cultural Heritage, 2002

The General Assembly,

Recalling the international conventions dealing with the protection of cultural and natural heritage, including the Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict adopted at The Hague in 1954[1] and the two Protocols thereto, the 1970 Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property,[2] and the 1972 Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage,[3] as well as the 1989 Recommendation on the Safeguarding of Traditional Culture and Folklore[4] and the 2001 Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization,[5]

Welcoming the ratification of the Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage by one hundred and seventy-six States parties, and noting the inscription of seven hundred and fifty-four sites on the World Heritage List,

Noting the adoption of the Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on 2 November 2001,[6]

Mindful of the importance of protecting the world cultural tangible and intangible heritage as a common ground for the promotion of mutual understanding and enrichment among cultures and civilizations,

Noting the work already undertaken to protect the world cultural and natural heritage by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, including international campaigns,

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[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 249, No. 3511.

[2] Ibid., vol. 823, No. 11806.

[3] Ibid., vol. 1037, No. 15511.

[4] United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Records of the General Conference, Twenty-fifth Session, Paris, 17 October–16 November 1989*, vol. 1: *Resolutions*, annex I.B.

[5] Ibid., *Thirty-first Session, Paris, 15 October–3 November 2001*, vol. 1 and corrigendum: *Resolutions*, resolution 25, annex I.

[6] Ibid., resolution 24.

Recalling its resolutions 56/8 of 21 November 2001, in which it proclaimed 2002 as the United Nations Year for Cultural Heritage, and 57/158 of 16 December 2002, in which it declared the Year concluded,

1. *Notes* the activities of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization undertaken during the United Nations Year for Cultural Heritage;

2. *Takes note with appreciation* of the adoption of the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization at its thirty-second session, on 17 October 2003;[7]

3. *Welcomes* the adoption of the Declaration concerning the Intentional Destruction of Cultural Heritage by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on 17 October 2003;[8]

4. *Invites* the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, in collaboration with Member States, observers, relevant United Nations bodies, within their respective mandates, other international organizations and relevant non-governmental organizations, to continue to intensify the implementation of programmes, activities and projects aimed at the promotion and protection of the world cultural heritage;

5. *Invites* Member States and observers to continue to promote education and raise public awareness so as to foster respect for national and world cultural heritage.

75th plenary meeting
17 December 2003

[7] Ibid., *Thirty-second Session, Paris, 29 September–17 October 2003*, vol. 1: *Resolutions*, resolution 32.

[8] Ibid., resolution 33, annex.

United Nations A/RES/58/125

General Assembly

Distr.: General
17 February 2004

Fifty-eighth session
Agenda item 3 (*b*)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/58/625)*]

58/125. Credentials of representatives to the fifty-eighth session of the General Assembly

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Credentials Committee[1] and the recommendation contained therein,

Approves the report of the Credentials Committee.

75th plenary meeting
17 December 2003

[1] A/58/625.

United Nations A/RES/58/126

General Assembly

Distr.: General
13 January 2004

Fifty-eighth session
Agenda item 55

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/58/L.49/Rev.1)*]

58/126. Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly

The General Assembly,

Recalling its previous resolutions relating to the revitalization of its work,[1]

Aware of the need to enhance its authority and role and to improve its working methods,

Decides to adopt the text contained in the annex to the present resolution.

76th plenary meeting
19 December 2003

Annex

A. Enhancing the authority and role of the General Assembly

In order to enhance the authority and role of the General Assembly, it is decided that:

1. Member States reaffirm the relevant provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and the United Nations Millennium Declaration[2] on the central position of the General Assembly.

2. The Security Council is invited to submit periodically, in accordance with Article 24 of the Charter, special subject-oriented reports to the General Assembly for its consideration on issues of current international concern.

3. The Security Council is invited to continue with initiatives to improve the quality of its annual report to the General Assembly, mandated by Article 24, paragraph 3, of the Charter, in order to provide the Assembly with a substantive, analytical and material account of its work, in accordance with resolution 51/193.

[1] Resolutions 46/77 of 12 December 1991, 47/233 of 17 August 1993, 48/264 of 29 July 1994, 51/193 of 17 December 1996, 51/241 of 31 July 1997, 52/163 of 15 December 1997, 55/14 of 3 November 2000, 55/285 of 7 September 2001, 56/509 of 8 July 2002, 57/300 of 20 December 2002 and 57/301 of 13 March 2003.

[2] See resolution 55/2.

4. In carrying out the assessment of the debate on the annual report of the Security Council called for in resolution 51/241, annex, paragraph 12, the President shall inform the General Assembly of his decision regarding the need for further consideration of the Security Council report, including in respect of the convening of informal consultations, on the need for, and content of, any action by the Assembly based on the debate, as well as on any matters to be brought to the attention of the Security Council.

5. The President of the General Assembly should continue to be briefed regularly by the President of the Security Council on the work of the Council. The President of the Assembly may wish to inform Member States about the substantive issues raised during these meetings.

6. The Presidents of the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council should meet together periodically with a view to ensuring increased cooperation, coordination and complementarity of the work programmes of the three organs in accordance with their respective responsibilities under the Charter. In this connection, the President of the Security Council may wish to discuss the plans of the Security Council for thematic debates with the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Economic and Social Council. The President of the Assembly will inform Member States about the outcome of these meetings.

7. In June of each year, the President-elect of the General Assembly, after taking into account the views provided by Member States and following consultations with the incumbent President and the Secretary-General, will suggest an issue, or issues, of global concern upon which Member States will be invited to comment during the general debate at the forthcoming session of the Assembly. The views provided by Member States should also be summarized and circulated to Member States. Such suggestions regarding the issue(s) for comment will be without prejudice to the sovereign right of Member States to solely and entirely determine the content of their general debate statements.

8. The work and decisions of the General Assembly should be better publicized. Accordingly, the support provided by the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat for these purposes should be intensified and strengthened. The Secretary-General is requested to present a plan to this end, within existing resources, to the next session of the Committee on Information, so that recommendations can be made to the Assembly.

9. Member States and the Secretariat should consider initiatives that might be taken for better monitoring of the follow-up of resolutions of the General Assembly, such as the provision of timely inputs for reports of the Secretary-General and giving effect to proposals that would advance the follow-up of major United Nations conferences and summits.

10. The resources available to the Office of the President of the General Assembly in personnel and other support shall be augmented from within existing resources, bearing in mind the provisions of paragraph 22 of the annex to resolution 55/285. Five additional posts shall be made available to supplement current support, of which three shall be filled on an annual basis, following consultations with the incoming President, beginning at the fifty-ninth session of the Assembly.

11. Transitional office accommodation and other support shall be provided to the President-elect of the General Assembly. The Secretary-General is requested to make the necessary arrangements for the provision of such support, within existing

resources, beginning with the President-elect of the fifty-ninth session of the Assembly.

B. Improving the working methods of the General Assembly

The working methods of the General Assembly need to be further rationalized in order to improve its efficiency and effectiveness and to make its outcomes more productive. Towards this end:

1. The General Committee shall meet throughout the session and further improve its working methods to increase its efficiency and effectiveness. It will play the leading role in advising the General Assembly on the efficient organization, coordination and management of its work. In this connection, the Assembly will also consider proposals to reform the General Committee.

2. The work of the Main Committees of the General Assembly might benefit if it is scheduled over two substantive periods during the session. The rescheduling of the work of the Main Committees should not lead to additional costs, additional or longer meetings, or staggered work schedules of the Main Committees. With a view to enabling the Assembly to consider changes in this regard, with effect from the sixtieth session of the Assembly, the Secretary-General is requested to present, by 1 February 2004, various options for consideration by the General Committee, taking into account the requirements of the relevant intergovernmental bodies and the different locations of their meetings and the budget cycle. The General Committee shall hold open-ended discussions on the options presented by the Secretary-General before making recommendations to the Assembly for its decision by 1 July 2004.

3. The General Assembly will consider convening more interactive debates. At the beginning of each session, the General Committee, following recommendations from the President of the General Assembly, shall recommend to the Assembly a programme of, and format for, interactive debates during that session on items on its agenda.

4. With a view to better conceptualization of the content of the agenda of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General is requested to submit to the Assembly, for its consideration by 1 March 2004, an illustrative agenda of the Assembly, based on all the agenda items of the fifty-eighth session, organized around the priorities of the Organization for the period 2002–2005.[3] The General Committee shall hold open-

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[3] For the priorities of the Organization for the period 2002–2005:

(*a*) Maintenance of international peace and security;

(*b*) Promotion of sustained economic growth and sustainable development in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and recent United Nations conferences;

(*c*) Development of Africa;

(*d*) Promotion of human rights;

(*e*) Effective coordination of humanitarian assistance efforts;

(*f*) Promotion of justice and international law;

(*g*) Disarmament;

(*h*) Drug control, crime prevention and combating international terrorism in all its forms and manifestations,

see paragraph 26 of the introduction to the medium-term plan for the period 2002–2005 (*Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 6* (A/55/6/Rev.1)) adopted in resolution 55/234.

ended discussions on the illustrative agenda before making recommendations on the matter to the Assembly for its decision by 1 July 2004.

5. It would be advantageous for the General Assembly to have a shorter agenda to ensure the fullest discussion of all issues, so that its decisions may have greater impact. Accordingly, the President of the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session, in consultation with the Secretary-General, and following consultations with concerned Member States, is requested to make proposals for the further biennialization, triennialization, clustering and elimination of items of the customary agenda of the Assembly for the consideration of the General Committee by 1 April 2004. The General Committee shall hold open-ended discussions on the proposals before making recommendations on the matter to the Assembly for its decision by 1 July 2004.

6. General Assembly resolutions should be more concise, focused and action-oriented. Where practical, more actions taken by the Assembly should be in the form of decisions. Preambular paragraphs in resolutions of the Assembly should normally be kept to the minimum.

7. The heavy volume of documentation that is submitted to the General Assembly for its consideration should be reduced. In this regard, the Secretary-General is requested to continue his efforts to make proposals to Member States for the consolidation of reports on related subjects in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 20 of resolution 57/300. The proposals on a shorter agenda should be accompanied by related proposals for a reduction in the volume of documentation.

8. The Main Committees of the General Assembly are bound by the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, although they have different practices and working methods. With a view to identifying best practices and working methods, and recognizing the ongoing efforts of the Main Committees to streamline their work, the Secretary-General, drawing on the experience of previous Chairmen of the Main Committees, is requested to submit a historical and analytical note on the practices and working methods of the Main Committees for the consideration of the General Committee by 1 April 2004. The General Committee shall hold open-ended discussions on the note before making recommendations on the matter to the Assembly for its decision by 1 July 2004.

9. In accordance with paragraph 2 (*a*) and (*c*) of resolution 56/509, the General Assembly elects the President of the Assembly, the Vice-Presidents of the Assembly, and the Chairmen of the Main Committees at least three months before the opening of the session in which they will serve. In order to foster better advance planning and preparation of the work of the Main Committees, the full Bureaux of the Main Committees shall similarly be elected three months in advance of the next session.